

REMARKS

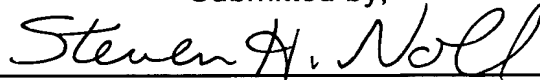
In the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, a typographical error was noted in claim 1, which has been corrected. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 27-29, 56 and 57 were rejected based on the prior art. Claims 15-21 and 32-55 were allowed, and claims 3-5, 8, 10 and 24-26 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present Amendment, the subject matter of claim 3 (which includes claim 2) has been embodied in independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, while also bringing the subject matter of claim 8 therein. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claim 24 (which includes claim 23) has been embodied in independent claim 22. Claim 25 has been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 6 and 9 have been cancelled because those claims would not be consistent as dependent claims in view of the amendments to the independent claims.

In view of the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 3-5, 8, 10 and 24-26, all claims of the application are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



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